

**STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
APRIL 2, 2009**

Call to Order. A regular meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission was called to order by Anita Dodd, at 3:06 P.M., Thursday, April 2, 2009 in Conference Room ABC, Stafford County Administration Center.

Roll Call. The following members were present: Anita Dodd, Chairperson; Barbara Kirby Vice Chairperson; Ann Best-Rolls and Jane Conner. Cessie Howell, Secretary was absent. Also in attendance were: Kathy Baker, Assistant Director, Planning and Zoning; Terry Baxley Morton, Commission Clerk.

Introduction of Newly Appointed Commission Members. Anita Dodd introduced Ann Best-Rolls of the George Washington District and Barbara Kirby of the Hartwood District.

Presentations by the Public. No one desired to speak.

Approval of Minutes.

Item 1. Approve Minutes of Commission Meeting. Jane Conner motioned, seconded by Barbara Kirby to approve the March 5, 2009 Commission meeting minutes with corrections.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

Yea: (4) Best-Rolls, Conner, Dodd, Kirby

Nay: (0)

Absent: (1) Howell

Item 2. Election of Officers. The current Chairperson opened the nominations.

Ann Best-Rolls nominated Barbara Kirby for Vice Chairperson.

Barbara Kirby nominated Anita Dodd for Chairperson.

Jane Conner nominated Cessie Howell for Secretary.

Hearing no objections from the Commission, the nominations were closed.

The Vote on the Nominations was:

Yea: (4) Best-Rolls, Conner, Dodd, Kirby

Nay: (0)

Absent: (1) Howell

Anita Dodd resumed the Chair.

Item 3. Report on Demolition of Structures Ordinance in Charlottesville, VA. Anita Dodd found it to be a historic district regulation. The demolition portion relates to structures within a historic district. Barbara Kirby said it is necessary to create a historic district or historic overlay district in order to set boundaries or parameters for where the demolitions can occur. An ordinance cannot control the entire County in regard to permission to abolish structures.

Discussion ensued.

Item 4. Discuss Creating an Ordinance on Demolition of Structures to Present to the Board of Supervisors. Kathy Baker said photographing structures of significance, from a cultural resource perspective could possibly be implemented at the permit level, allowing the County to record structures in a timely manner before demolition as opposed to requiring a County ordinance to enforce recordation. The Commission iterated the importance of recordation of cultural resources Countywide not only in historical districts or in overlays exclusively. Kathy Baker said the Commission could set the parameters for structures it desires to record instead of every structure scheduled for demolition.

Anita Dodd requested a map of all Historic Districts and Overlays for Commission members.

Anita Dodd said she is meeting with staff from Prince William County in two weeks regarding approaching the state on regulations for historical cemeteries.

Items 5 & 6. Receive and Discuss Procedures for Existing Structures in the Redevelopment Process and the Historical Preservation Ordinance currently in Committee with the Board of Supervisors. Proposed Ordinance O06-47 - Phase 1.

Anita Dodd said a phase 1 study must be conducted first to decide if a cultural resource is significant. She said the current statement in the proposed ordinance would require revised verbiage. Definition - Phase 1 - currently helps identify what may or may not be within the projected area. Phase 2 is to determine if the cultural resource is significant enough or not.

The Commission is concerned about developer's awareness of the criteria up front. It agreed communication is imperative when conveying all requirements. The Commission said the development community is cooperative.

Kathy Baker asked the Commission to continue reviewing the ordinance, decide on changes that are beneficial and submit recommendations to send to the Board with their requests.

Presentations and Reports by Commission Members.

- Barbara Kirby said it is imperative to preserve cultural and historical resources for historical purposes and it contributes to the attraction of tourist through Economic Development. She mentioned various sites that should have been preserved over the years and are now disturbed.

- The Commission requested a bound copy of the County's Master Redevelopment Plan. It established, members may receive portions of the manual by request as needed.

- Jane Conner commented on the official title of the Committee facilitating the Landfill Park. The title is the Accokeek Creek Civil War Site Plan Committee.

- Ann Best-Rolls said she spoke with Catherine Kilpatrick, Pete Fields and Harry Crisp at different times regarding the aesthetics of the business district across from Ferry Farm. She said

they were supportive to the idea of improvements to the area. Pete Fields suggested presenting language for the historical ordinance to the Board that would require areas across from historical districts to be made aesthetically pleasing as well. The Commission established it would need to inquire with the County Attorney regarding language. Ann Best-Rolls desires to talk with a representative from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) regarding any possible assistance. Barbara Kirby iterated that commercial property located in the area takes away from historical landmarks and that having guidelines for businesses in the area to follow would greatly improve appearances.

- Barbara Kirby said she met with a Boy Scout regarding a signage project for a historical house in the County. She said he would need an archeologist present when disturbing the ground.

Adjournment. At 4:10 P.M., the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Anita Dodd – Chairperson

Barbara Kirby – Vice Chairperson